## Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (amended) A method of decreasing muscle protein catabolism in an individual having a severe burn, comprising the step of administering to said individual a pharmacologically effective dose of a beta-adrenergic antagonist.

## Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said propranolol is administered intraveneously in a dose of about 1 mg/kg of the body.

## Please amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (amended) A method of decreasing muscle protein catabolism in an individual having a severe burn, comprising the step of administering to said individual a pharmacologically effective dose of propranolol.